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DAVID LIPNOWSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WELCOMING A NEW CHAMPION FOR WINNIPEG

BLAKE WHEELER

New Jets captain has history of outreach in the community

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg Jet Blake Wheeler has some big skates to fill.

Wheeler, who turned 30 Wednesday, received quite a birthday present: a brand new "C" stitched to his jersey.

He succeeds Andrew Ladd as the Jets' captain. Ladd was beloved by Winnipeggers as a cheerleader for the city, and Wheeler pledged to follow in his footsteps.

"We look forward to leading on the ice and in the community," Wheeler said of himself and his family, including his wife, Sam, and their two children.

Howard Koks is the executive director of the Dream Factory, a charity for sick children that Ladd supported. He said big-name stars like Wheeler have a responsibility to be part of the city's charitable fabric.

"The Jets are big heroes," he said.

Koks said that to him, the trait of a good leader comes down to character.

"When someone cares you can tell," he said.

Carla Martinelli-Irvine, executive director of the Winnipeg Pet Rescue, believes Wheeler is just the man for the job.

Several years ago, Wheeler, along with Jets forward Bryan Little, attended an autograph-signing fundraiser for the no-kill shelter. More than 1,000 people lined up to meet the players, resulting in more animals finding homes, Martinelli-Irvine explained.

"I can't think of a better person," she said. "The Blake that I know is a kind and decent human being and has a willingness to serve the community, and you can't ask for more than that."

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Your essential daily news

Pope Francis will canonize Mother Teresa on Sunday.

These are the faces of fentanyl

CRISIS

Overdose victims' moms push for action on deadly drug

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Winnipeg

A painful two-year crusade brought Arlene Last-Kolb to the steps of the Manitoba legislature building Wednesday.

The Winnipeg mom and approximately 80 other people — most grieving family members and friends — showed up on International Overdose Awareness Day to put a human face on the fentanyl crisis that has killed hundreds of Canadians, including at least 29 in Manitoba last year.

Last-Kolb's son, Jesse, died in 2014 after overdosing on the powerfully toxic opioid. Ever since, she has campaigned for increased access to life-saving naloxone kits, which can reverse overdose symptoms.

The Winnipeg mother believes Jesse could still be alive today if he had access to the kit.

"Those that were there with Jesse did not call an ambulance. They cleaned the house of all needles, drugs and cellphones. They knew Jesse was overdosing and they left him," she said.

By the time emergency responders arrived, it was too late.

"I think naloxone kits should be available to everyone in Manitoba," Last-Kolb said.

Arlene Last-Kolb and Christine Dobbs organized the International Overdose Awareness Day rally outside the legislature after their sons died of fentanyl-related drug overdoses. They want life-saving naloxone kits widely available in Manitoba. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Christine Dobbs, another Winnipeg mother whose 27-year-old son, Adam, died six months ago of a fentanyl overdose, echoed the call to action.

"We need to get (naloxone kits) into homes and into the hands of people who need them," she said.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opiate, is 50 to 100 times more toxic than morphine.

It is often cut with other street drugs, like heroin, so users often don't even know they are consuming it.

Jurisdictions like British Columbia have declared a public health emergency because of the alarming increase in overdoses and deaths related to the drug and it is becoming more prevalent in other parts of Canada.

To combat fentanyl's presence here, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority offers free naloxone kits and training through its Street Connections program.

Medical Officer of Health Joss Reimer told Metro 102 kits have been given to users since January and demand for the kits has been higher than expected.

> "We need to be prepared to help our community. I believe in harm reduction and naloxone kits are part of it."
> Arlene Last-Kolb

Reimer said she's aware of at least nine cases where the kits prevented a potentially fatal overdose.

"We are seeing an increase in overdoses," she said. "Fentanyl is so toxic and is affecting broader parts of the population than we're used to seeing so I think it's going to be a problem."

The province, which established a fentanyl task force in January, is looking at options for a provincial distribution plan for naloxone kits.

Opposition NDP MLA James Allum urged the province to act quickly to tackle fentanyl. "If the government won't do it, we'll address it with a Private Member's Bill," he said.

LEARN MORE

Read up on prevention
Find more information on fentanyl and overdose prevention at www.knowyoursource.ca

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Woman brings lost cats home

ANIMAL RESCUE

Marnie Singer began mission after her pet went missing

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Marnie Singer has lost track of how many lost cats she's helped find.

The Winnipeg woman spends upwards of eight hours a day on top of her job in a nursing home to monitor a Facebook page full of missing kitties.

Called Winnipeg Missing and Found Cat Watch, the page has more than 18,000 members and is monitored by Singer, along with the help of a friend.

"It's a full-time job in itself," she said Wednesday.

Singer began going online to help reconnect owners with their lost cats after her own escaped from a window five years ago.

She spent two months looking for her cat. Along the way, she talked with different rescue groups that gave her a wealth of information she wanted to share with other cat owners.

"I like to pay it forward," Singer said.

In 2011, she started to post about missing cats on Kijiji, and last April developed the Facebook page. By her estimate she's helped bring "hundreds" of cats home.

Singer encourages her Facebook followers to keep an eye out for wandering cats and instructs people on what to do if they find a wayward kitty, such as not turning it over to a shelter.

18,000

Members on Facebook page called Winnipeg Missing and Found Cat Watch, monitored by Singer and a friend.

She also educates owners on the dangers of letting their cats roam loose, and urges them to spay or neuter their pets.

Kyle Jahns, a communications officer with The Winnipeg Humane Society, said the shelter is grateful for Singer's work.

"It's a huge benefit because it can really decrease the number of cats that we're going to have coming into our shelter," he said.

Singer admits the page is a lot of work, but said seeing people reunited with their animals makes it worth it.

"I get a lot of reward from this," she said. "I'll keep doing this for as long as I can."

Marnie Singer poses with her cat, Freddie. Singer runs the Winnipeg Missing and Found Cat Watch Facebook page and has helped reunite "hundreds" of lost cats with their owners. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

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POLICE SHOOTINGS

Inquest called into deaths of two men

Manitoba's acting chief medical examiner has called an inquest into two deaths involving police.

John Younes has ruled the deaths meet the criteria for a mandatory review.

Haki Sefa died during an altercation with the RCMP last September near Bird's Hill Park just outside Winnipeg after a police pursuit.

In November, Steven Campbell died from multiple gunshot wounds after allegedly trying to run over a Mountie who pulled him over for drunk driving in Thompson.

The Sefa case was the first major one for the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba, the province's police watchdog.

But its civilian director Zane Tessler had to recuse himself because he was involved in the prosecution of Sefa in 2011.

The goal of the inquest is to determine what, if anything, can be done to prevent similar deaths.

The Independent Investigation Unit has not yet released the results of its review into the two deaths.

Family members said at the time he died that Sefa, a 44-year-old plumber and father of four, had been depressed and suicidal.

The investigation unit said the family had called police with concerns about Sefa.

Campbell, who was 39, died after being pulled over following a brief chase.

A Mountie got out of his cruiser and approached the vehicle, which accelerated and struck the officer, who fired his gun.

A woman, one of four passengers in Campbell's vehicle, was injured.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The remains of six infants were found in this storage locker in Winnipeg. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court hears from husband

INFANT REMAINS

Closing remarks in Andrea Giesbrecht trial begin Friday

The husband of a woman on trial for concealing the remains of six infants in a storage locker thought his wife was hoarding furniture.

"I thought it was her father's, hoarding furniture and stuff," Jeremy Giesbrecht said Wednesday as the Crown concluded its case against his wife, Andrea Giesbrecht, 42.

Court heard that she rented a locker from one Winnipeg company and then later moved the contents to a U-Haul facility. Employees there opened the locker in October 2014 when the bill went unpaid.

What they found inside the locker were the badly decomposed remains of six infants that expert medical witnesses have said all appeared to be near full term.

Jeremy Giesbrecht said he was aware of the first locker but unsure about the second.

"I may have seen a bill from U-Haul ... I don't recall."

Court has heard most of the remains were in white garbage bags inside other bags and containers. Experts who examined the remains and reviewed the findings testified the infants were probably born alive, but added it was impossible to tell for sure. Nor could they tell how the babies had died because of the advanced state of decomposition.

DNA evidence presented earlier at the trial suggested Jeremy Giesbrecht was linked to the remains. It also suggested DNA found on a sanitary napkin in the Giesbrecht home was a match, but Andrea Giesbrecht's lawyer raised questions about whether it was hers.

Her husband, who also testified earlier in the trial, said his wife of 20 years didn't gain much weight during pregnancy to the point where he didn't know he was going to be a father until the day his first son was born. They have two children and wanted no more, he said.

He said he had a vasectomy in 2011 but never went back for a followup appointment to ensure it had worked.

The trial has already heard that Giesbrecht was pregnant at least six times and had several legal abortions over the years, as well as a miscarriage.

Defence lawyer Greg Brodsky asked Giesbrecht if he had driven his wife to medical appointments for some of the abortions and he confirmed he had.

"You knew there were nine, 10, 11 of them?" asked Brodsky.

"Yes," her husband replied.

Brodsky elected not to call any witnesses and suggested the Crown hadn't proved its case.

The Crown has yet to suggest a motive for the alleged crime.

Final arguments are to begin Friday. The charges carry a maximum sentence of two years on each count.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Amber group left to wait at the lights a little longer

ROAD SAFETY

Push to raise times on hold after court date is rescheduled

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Winnipeg

One group's crusade to have Winnipeg's amber light times lengthened has hit a speed bump.

Todd Dube, co-founder of Wise Up Winnipeg, was expecting to be in court Friday to challenge the city's amber light times, which he claims are too short.

"A short amber produces panic, confusion and collisions," he told Metro.

However, Dube said the case won't be heard until later this month, after it was determined more time was needed for both sides to present evidence and prepare their arguments.

Wise Up Winnipeg, which campaigns for better road safety and against what Dube called "abusive" traffic tickets, is taking advantage of the delay by rallying at Bishop Grandin and River Road Thursday afternoon.

Members of the group will be standing at the intersection — the site of a serious, three-car collision earlier in the summer — carrying signs warning drivers of the short amber light ahead.

"We want to draw attention to the issue before it goes to court," Dube said.

According to Dube, amber lights in the city last four seconds. That's too short, he says, especially for high-speed roads like Bishop Grandin. He worries short lights, combined with red light cameras at some intersections, are unfairly dinging drivers.

"We need to get these amber times made proper immediately," he said.

Other jurisdictions adjust amber times depending on the speed and slope of the roadway. Roads with higher speeds or steep downgrades have amber times of five seconds in Toronto, for example.

A spokesperson for Winnipeg's traffic department told Metro the city has no plans to adjust its amber signal times.

"Amber light times of four seconds are suitable for Winnipeg roads with speeds up to and including 80 km/h and are within acceptable engineering practices," Kailey Barron wrote in an email.

A court case challenging Winnipeg's amber light times has been delayed until later this month. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

> **We want to draw attention to the issue before it goes to court.**
> Wise Up Winnipeg co-founder Todd Dube on Thursday's planned rally

GOLD SOLUTION OR YELLOW PERIL?

Are longer yellow lights safer?

Studies do suggest increasing amber light times leads to fewer violations — and fewer tickets — but the impact of the change on safety is more murky.

The U.S. state of Georgia increased amber times in 2009, resulting in a reduction in collisions at intersections. However, while the number of collisions went down, red light running-related fatalities in Georgia increased that year by 53 per cent, according to American Traffic Solutions.

Similarly, studies show that while red light cameras can result in more rear-end collisions at intersections, they tend to reduce right-angle crashes, which are more likely to end in serious injury or death.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

TRAFFIC LAWS

School no place for speed

Students heading back to school aren't the only ones who will be doing math this month.

Winnipeg police will be out in force calculating kilometres per hour, and drivers who fail to keep an eye on their speedometers will be subtracting from their bank account now that reduced speeds in school zones are back in effect.

Blowing through one of Winnipeg's 171 school zones could land drivers with a ticket upwards of $300, depending on speed, according to Winnipeg Police Services Const. Greg Mitchell.

"We will be starting enforcement as the bylaw states in the beginning of September. All drivers should be aware because it certainly is a significant reduction from 50 km/h to 30," Mitchell said.

According to the province, there were 45,325 tickets issued in Winnipeg's reduced-speed school zones between Sept. 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

Mitchell said that number was down compared to 2014-15, so hopefully drivers are getting the message.

"Enforcement hasn't changed so we attribute that to people being more educated," he said. "We look forward to that number going down this year, but that remains to be seen." MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Back to school in Winnipeg means drivers need to slow down in some zones. METRO FILE

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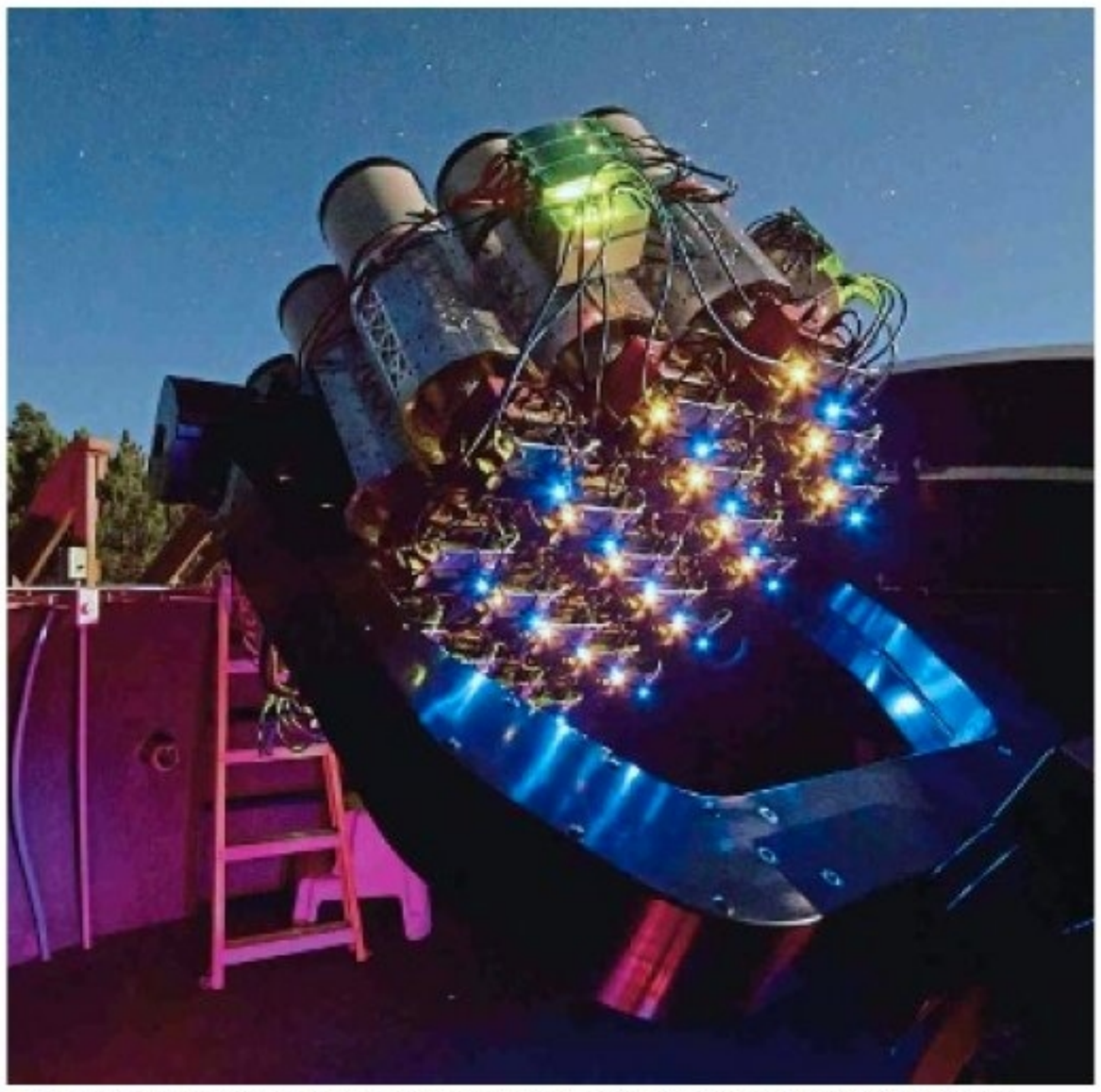

The Dragonfly 44 galaxy was spotted using the Dragonfly Telephoto Array, a multi-lens telescope invented by University of Toronto's Roberto Abraham and Yale's Pieter van Dokkum.
CONTRIBUTED

Dragonfly 44 made up of dark matter

SPACE

Astronomers discover galaxy that 'shouldn't be found'

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Many a discovery or idea was hatched over a pint of ale: DNA, the existence of carbon dioxide and Pet Rocks among them.

But a "beery" conversation four years ago has led two astronomers, including a Canadian observational cosmologist, to stumble upon a gigantic galaxy that's as heavy as our own — but has almost no visible stars.

It's named Dragonfly 44, and University of Toronto's Roberto Abraham estimates it's made of 99.99 per cent dark matter, a mysterious cosmic material only observable through its gravitational effects.

DISCOVERY

- After spotting Dragonfly 44, they were able to take a closer look at Hawaii's Keck Observatory, using the powerful Gemini North telescope.
- Their findings were published in the September edition of The Astrophysical Journal Letters.

"This is a really massive galaxy, about the same mass as our Milky Way, but it's almost pure dark matter," Abraham told Metro.

"Dragonfly 44 is a different type of galaxy. You could think of it almost like a cloud that's enormous but hardly has any stars in it. Such things shouldn't really exist."

Scientists have known about dark matter since the 1970s, he explained, but despite many "wildly speculative" theories amongst scholars no one knows what it actually is yet.

Even our own Milky Way is believed to contain some dark matter at its core. But Dragonfly 44 is the largest galaxy ever discovered that's mostly dark matter, he said.

"Galaxies like this should not be found, and they shouldn't last," he said. "Think of it as just seeing the frosting on the cake but not seeing the cake."

As for the name Dragonfly 44, Abraham explained that he and his colleague, Yale astronomer Pieter van Dokkum, found it using the Dragonfly Telephoto Array — a telescope they invented using 48 commercial Canon telephoto lenses joined together, which they hoped to use to study how galaxies form.

"We came up with the idea of using (many) lenses for a telescope over a beery conversation about four years ago," he said. "It is a pretty novel concept that's enabling us to go after objects that are otherwise undetectable."

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE

Armed forces to probe spate of deaths

Canada's armed forces says it's looking into a recent spate of deaths involving students or recent graduates from the Royal Military College.

Four men have died since April, prompting officials to start probing the circumstances around the various cases.

Royal Military College spokeswoman Lt. Jennifer Fidler says the commander of military personnel command has convened a board of inquiry into the deaths of three officer cadets who were students at the school in Kingston, Ont.

Harrison Kelertas, 22, and 20-year-old Brett Cameron died within days of each other on the RMC campus, while 19-year-old Matthew Sullivan died earlier this month in Saint John, N.B.

Fidler says a separate board of inquiry is looking into the death of 39-year-old Sub Lt. Eric Leclerc, who died while serving at CFB Borden in June.

Fidler said mental health is an increasing focus of the officer cadet training program at the school. She said "resiliency training" to address mental health concerns will become part of the curriculum this September. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Feds send fact-finding mission to Mali

The federal government is sending a fact-finding mission to take a closer look at the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Mali. Officials insist the mission does not mean the government has decided to send Canadian peacekeepers to the West African country. But it does suggest Mali, despite being the most dangerous peacekeeping operation in the world, is on the Canadian short list, which will be welcome news to the UN. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Free trade talks hit snag

BEIJING

China has been urging Canada to begin negotiations

Formal free trade talks between Canada and China have yet to proceed because of snags over labour, the environment and concerns linked to Chinese state-owned enterprises, says Ottawa's envoy to Beijing.

Ambassador Guy Saint-Jacques highlighted those sticking points Wednesday after Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said Canada and China would soon launch a feasibility study on an eventual free trade deal.

Li spoke to reporters through a translator after meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Asked about the remarks, Saint-Jacques denied that the two sides had agreed to begin formal negotiations.

But Saint-Jacques, who accompanied Trudeau at meetings Wednesday with Li and later with President Xi Jinping, did share some details of the prime minister's position on the matter.

"The prime minister said that the approach that Canada takes when it comes to a free trade agreement is that it must include a number of important items — he mentioned two political and two economic issues," Saint-Jacques said.

On the political side, he said it was important for Trudeau that modern free trade deals include chapters on labour and on the environment.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang shakes hands with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau following a news conference in Beijing on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saint-Jacques said the prime minister also made it clear that any deal with China must "address the impact of state-owned enterprises" and procurement.

"And as you know, those areas are problematic," he said.

"I would say that a lot more work needs to be done on those areas. I would say the prime minister was quite clear on this."

Takeovers of Canadian firms by Chinese state-owned enterprises have proved highly controversial in the past. The concerns led the former Conservative government to restrict state-owned Chinese investment in Alberta's oilsands.

For its part, China has been urging Canada to negotiate a free trade agreement.

While Trudeau has said he hopes to broaden trade with the growing superpower, he has been cautious about stating he would like pursue formal talks.

A senior Canadian official said Wednesday that some technical discussions related to free trade with China have been held and will continue, but the official stressed that there have been no negotiations.

Still, Trudeau said Wednesday that the two sides will take steps to improve trade and investment, boost tourism, expand cultural exchanges and address climate change.

The countries, he noted, also agreed to establish annual meetings between the Chinese premier and the Canadian prime minister on a range of issues, including national security and the rule of law.

"This year marks 45 years of diplomatic relations between Canada and China," Trudeau said as he stood beside Li in the Great Hall of the People, which overlooks Tiananmen Square.

"My father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, played an important role in establishing a partnership between our two countries when he was prime minister. So, I'm very happy to be extending that effort now."

The Chinese leadership, which has high expectations of the 10-month-old Trudeau government, have given him a warm welcome. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EXPLOITATION

Gaps put kids at risk

There are "serious gaps" — in resources, training and research — in efforts to protect young people from online sexual exploitation, warns a study prepared for the federal government.

It means "much more still needs to be done" to ensure the safety of vulnerable children, especially in regions that lack the people and programming to make a difference, says the examination of 60 public-sector and non-profit agencies across the country.

TECHNOLOGY

Access to technology and social media are no longer optional for many young people, who see them as essential to their social status, the study said.

The study, completed in March for Public Safety Canada by an Ottawa consulting firm.

Public Safety commissioned the research to build on its work against online exploitation and "ensure that federal investments are targeted at the areas of greatest need," the study said.

It followed an internal department memo in February that warned of insufficient police resources to keep pace with the burgeoning threat to children from online sexual predators.

Cybertip.ca, a tipline to report online sexual abuse of children, has seen increases in reporting, including with respect to the severity of acts and images of very young children. THE CANADIAN PRESS

*Prices are subject to change without prior notice and vary based on prescription strength. Standard LASIK starting at $490/eye and Custom LASIK starting at $1,990/eye. Other conditions may apply.

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazilian president removed from office

Dilma Rousseff ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil's Senate on Wednesday voted to remove President Dilma Rousseff from office, the culmination of a fight that paralyzed the nation and exposed deep rifts among its people.

While Rousseff's ouster was widely expected, the decision was a key chapter in a colossal political struggle. Rousseff was Brazil's first female president, with a storied career that includes a stint as a Marxist guerrilla jailed and tortured in the 1970s during the country's dictatorship. She was accused of breaking fiscal laws in her management of the federal budget.

Opposition lawmakers, who made clear early on the only solution was getting her out of office, argued that the manoeuvres masked yawning deficits from high spending and ultimately exacerbated the recession in a nation that had enjoyed darling status among emerging economies.

Nonsense, Rousseff countered time and again, proclaiming her innocence up to the end. Previous presidents used similar accounting techniques, she noted, saying the push to remove her was a bloodless coup d'etat by elites fuming over the populist polices of her Workers' Party the last 13 years.

The opposition needed 54 of the 81 senators to vote in favour for her to be removed. They got many more, winning in a landslide of sorts, 61-20.

"Today is the day that 61 men, many of them charged and corrupt, threw 54 million Brazilian votes in the garbage," Rousseff tweeted minutes after the decision.

Rousseff won re-election in 2014, garnering more than 54 million votes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EXTREMIST GROUP

Slain Daesh fighter was powerful figure

With the killing of Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, Daesh lost one of its most powerful figures, a militant with multiple roles: A propaganda chief, overseer of spectacular attacks in Europe and a trusted lieutenant of the group's top leader.

Al-Adnani was the mastermind of the extremist group's strategy of lashing out abroad with attacks that overshadowed its battlefield losses in Syria and Iraq. He formed militant cells in Europe to carry out organized attacks and inspired "lone wolves" who struck out on their own.

Coming on the heels of the death of the group's war minister, al-Adnani's loss is likely to prompt a shake-up in the Daesh leadership and may force its shadowy leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, to address the loss of its most charismatic figure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump delivers a joint press conference with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto in Mexico City on Wednesday. Trump was in Mexico to meet its president, in a move aimed at showing that despite his hardline opposition to illegal immigration he is no close-minded xenophobe. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Trump, Mexico's Peña Nieto talk wall

U.S. ELECTION

Visit an attempt to paint nominee in different light

On Mexican soil for the first time as the Republican presidential nominee, a firm but measured Donald Trump defended the right of the United States to build a massive border wall along its southern flank, standing up for the centerpiece of his immigration plan in a country where he is widely despised.

But within hours of Trump's visit, a dispute arose over the most contentious part of the billionaire's plans to secure the U.S. southern border — his insistence that Mexico must pay to build that wall.

When answering questions from adjacent lecterns before a Mexican flag after his meeting at the official residence of the country's president, Enrique Peña Nieto, Trump said Wednesday the two men didn't discuss who would pay for a cost of construction pegged in the billions.

Silent at that moment, Peña Nieto later tweeted, "At the start of the conversation with Donald Trump I made it clear that Mexico will not pay for the wall."

With the meeting held behind closed doors, it was impossible to know who was telling the truth. But the difference in how Trump and Peña Nieto recalled their talk was an example of the political risk taken on by two unpopular politicians who arrived at the meeting having spent months quarreling from afar.

The trip and the later dispute, arriving 10 weeks before America's presidential Election Day, came just hours before Trump was to deliver a highly anticipated speech in Arizona about illegal immigration. That has been a defining issue of his presidential campaign, but also one on which he's appeared to waver in recent days.

Trump stayed on script after the meeting, reading a statement from notes and politely answering shouted questions from reporters about his promise to force Mexico to pay for a wall along the border between the two countries.

"We did discuss the wall. We didn't discuss payment of the wall," Trump said.

Writing later on Twitter, Peña Nieto said the subject was among the first things the men discussed. He has for months said "there is no scenario" under which Mexico would pay for the wall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TENSE HISTORY

- Trump began his campaign by deriding Mexico as a source of rapists and criminals, and piled on in the months to come as he attacked Mexico over free trade, illegal immigration and border security.
- Peña Nieto responded by condemning Trump's language, saying those were the sort of words that gave rise to Adolf Hitler.

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SCIENCE

Fossils may be oldest signs of life on Earth

Scientists have found what they think is the oldest fossil on Earth, a remnant of life from 3.7 billion years ago when Earth's skies were orange and its oceans green.

In a newly melted part of Greenland, Australian scientists found the leftover structure from a community of microbes that lived on an ancient seafloor, according to a study in Wednesday's journal Nature.

The discovery shows life may have formed quicker and easier than once thought, about half a billion years after Earth formed. And that may also give hope for life forming elsewhere, such as Mars, said study co-author Martin VanKranendonk of the University of New South Wales and director of the Australian Center for Astrobiology.

> It gives us an idea how our planet evolved and how life gained a foothold. Martin VanKranendonk

"It gives us an idea how our planet evolved and how life gained a foothold," VanKranendonk said.

Scientists had thought it would take at least half a billion years for life to form after the molten Earth started to cool a bit, but this shows it could have happened quicker, he said. That's because the newly found fossil is far too complex to have developed soon after the planet's first life forms, he said.

In an outcrop of rocks that used to be covered with ice and snow, the Australian team found stromatolites, which are intricately layered microscopic layered structures that are often produced by a community of microbes. The stromatolites were about 1-4 centimetres high.

It "is like the house left behind made by the microbes," VanKranendonk said.

Scientists used the layers of ash from volcanoes and tiny zircon with uranium and lead to date this back 3.7 billion years ago, using a standard dating method, VanKranendonk said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Industrial milk price going up once again

FOOD

Second hike in a year likely to be passed on to consumers

Industrial milk is going up by 2.76 per cent from Thursday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Restaurateurs are crying foul over a second industrial milk price increase this year set to take effect Thursday, which they say will likely lead to higher food prices.

In July, the Canadian Dairy Commission decided to raise the price of industrial milk — which is processed into yogurt, ice cream, cheese and butter — by 2.76 per cent. That's on top of a 2.2 per cent hike that occurred in February.

It's the first time the CDC has increased prices twice in one year since 2008. The latest hike is being introduced because of a "very unique and unexpected situation," Benoit Basillais, CDC's chief of policy and economics, said in an email.

Basillais said the hikes came because producer revenues "decreased rapidly" last fall, in part due to a decrease in global demand from importing countries and changing consumer preferences — and revenues did not stabilize by early spring as anticipated.

Basillais added that the move was intended to be "an advance" of the CDC's December price decision for next year, though he said it's premature to say there will be no increase next year.

While the hike in prices may provide a reprieve for producers, it's likely to put a burden on restaurateurs who must decide whether their customers can stomach higher prices.

It seems likely diners will end up paying more, according to Pierre Cadieux, vice-president of federal and Quebec government relations for Restaurants Canada, a not-for-profit association representing 30,000 businesses in the restaurant and food-service industry.

"That (price hike) has to be passed on to the consumer somehow," he said. "So, it's reflected in our menu prices. It's reflected in changes to the menu."

The cost of food that consists of industrial milk may increase or restaurateurs may instead remove some menu items, Cadieux suggested. Milkshakes, he said, are the perfect example of an item disappearing as few consumers are willing to pay the price shops charge for the diner staple.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GLOBAL EXPANSION

Tim Hortons plans to open cafés in Britain

Tim Hortons is continuing its international expansion with plans to open its first full-service coffee shops in Britain.

The company partnered with an investor to establish a master franchise joint venture company that will open the stores in England, Scotland and Wales.

In late July, Tim Hortons announced a similar agreement in the Philippines, which is the brand's first stop in Southeast Asia.

It did not specify how many stores it plans to open in Great Britain or when, but a spokesperson said in an email that it seeks to be a leader in the market.

Daniel Schwartz, CEO of Restaurant Brands International, said in a statement that the area is an attractive market with a strong and growing coffee culture.

RBI, the parent company of Tim Hortons reported its second quarter earnings this month, which showed the number of Tim Hortons locations increased about three per cent to 4,464 stores.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LABOUR DISPUTE

Group calls Canada Post deal just a 'peace treaty'

Canada Post and its employees have merely reached a "peace treaty" ahead of the busy holiday shopping season, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business warned, predicting little but long-term pain for the Crown corporation.

The agency will be forced to confront lost business, a massive pension shortfall and a parliamentary review of its operations in the coming years, it said after Canada Post reached tentative agreements with its union.

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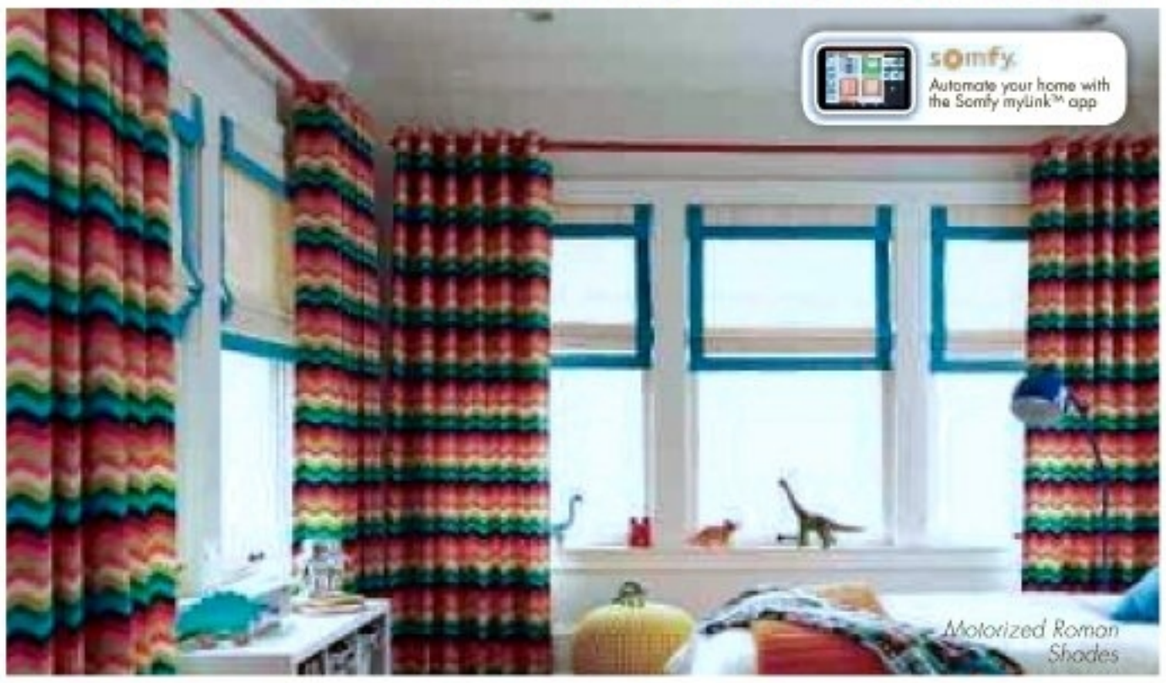

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, September 1, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Vancouver

In harm-reduction circles they say every overdose is preventable. By that standard, B.C. is failing dramatically.

Speak to those at the front lines of the unprecedented drug overdoses hitting Vancouver and, if they've been around long enough, the 1990s will come up.

It was a decade of headline-grabbing OD deaths, peaking in 1998 when 417 people in B.C. died from illicit-drug overdoses.

But 2016 is shaping up to be far, far worse.

Already, at least 371 people have died in the province, a two-a-day rate that could translate into 800 deaths by year's end. The provincial health officer declared an emergency in April.

The highest-profile culprit is fentanyl, a viciously toxic synthetic opioid detected in 60 per cent of OD deaths this year and 86 per cent of drugs at Insite, Vancouver's safe-injection site. It's spreading across the country at an alarming pace.

"2015 was the first year the number, the rate, was above 1998," noted Dr. Jane Buxton, an epidemiologist and head of harm reduction for the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.

"I'm either so angry or so heartbroken," Ann Livingston, a long-time activist with the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU), told me. "I think, Oh my God. We went through this is in the '90s, and we lobbied like hell, and we got Insite, so there was some sense of moving forward. And now there seems to be even less action."

It's a sentiment that might surprise anyone aware of the growing headlines on opioid overdoses across this country over the last two years, from Alberta's 270 fentanyl-related deaths in 2015, to a recent national investigation by the Globe and Mail, to this week's statement from Ontario police chiefs and community safety groups calling 2016 a record-breaking year for overdose alerts and warning that fentanyl is a "ticking time bomb."

In response, both B.C. and Alberta have struck overdose task forces, and Manitoba has a fentanyl-awareness task force. The federal government has made naloxone — a lifesaving anti-overdose drug — available without prescription nationally. The move is part of Health Canada's "Action on Opioid Misuse" plan, and yesterday, to mark International Overdose Day, the ministry announced it was "moving forward" with a plan to restrict six chemicals used to make fentanyl, citing RCMP reports of "an increase in domestic production" of the drug, which is also made in China and shipped into Canada.

But all this is not enough for Livingston. It's common parlance in harm-reduction circles that every overdose is preventable. By that standard, she says, B.C. is failing dramatically.

In her eyes, the explosion of fentanyl and related deaths is a symptom of ineffective drug, homelessness and policing policies. She cites insufficient or ineffective recovery programs; a clamp-down on opioid prescribing that drives those with addictions to street drugs; and lower welfare support for the homeless, which she argues leads greater numbers of drug users into jails, and thus raises their risk of post-release overdose.

And she blames the dearth of legal, publicly accessible safe-injection sites like Vancouver's Insite, still the only such facility in North America — a legacy of the Harper government, which fought the site all the way to a loss at the Supreme Court, and then legislated onerous rules that have curtailed efforts to duplicate Insite, and its undisputed public-health success, elsewhere.

Judging by the Liberal government's messaging, that could change. A year ago, on a campaign stop in Vancouver, Justin Trudeau told a crowd, "I certainly want to see more safe-injection sites opened around the country." In March, his health minister, Jane Philpott, told the CBC, "Sites like Insite in Vancouver and others like them have the possibility to save countless lives."

But possibility and reality are miles apart. And possibility is where many proposed sites — in Victoria, in Toronto, and five more in Vancouver — remain. While Canadians continue to die at alarming rates, the Liberal government has given no indication that undoing the Conservative legislation is a priority.

It is hard to view that as anything other than heel-dragging.

"You know what will speed this up, I think?" Livingston told me. "Parents of kids who've died need to sue, right away. I tell ya, I would. Because it's part of this awful stigma. If you're a drug addict, you're supposed to be so ashamed of yourself that your life doesn't matter."

B.C. is already calling the fentanyl crisis what it is — a public-health emergency —and Ottawa needs to follow suit. Why should death by overdose entail any less federal action than death by poisoned water, for instance?

"We shouldn't have to wait," Livingston said, "while they fiddle and faddle and argue, or whatever the hell they're doing, while our kids die."

E-sports: Where women don't have to be scrubs

Samantha Emann
Metro | Toronto

The next big thing in arts and entertainment is competitive video-gaming. You might not realize it yet, but you soon will.

The biggest tournaments in "e-sports" — competitions involving games like League of Legends, Starcraft 2 and Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) — draw audiences comparable to those of major mainstream sporting events. By 2019, according to market research, it will be a billion-dollar business, which is what the NHL was in about 1998.

Count on it: E-sports is going to be making people rich and famous. Women make up about half of non-pro gamers in North America, and women gamers have none of the physical disadvantages that have kept them out of traditional pro sports. Competitive gaming should be the first big-time sport in which men and women share equally in the glory and spoils.

But, right now, sponsors, advertisers and other stakeholders in the e-sports business are not looking at women as a viable demographic, either as players or consumers.

A woman in e-sports is "a small fish in a very large pond — a fish in a shark tank," said Laure Guilbert, a former manager for Team YP, which has teams competing in games like Street Fighter and League of Legends. She says the business side of the e-sports community needs to play catchup.

"There are not a lot of sponsors that are putting forward women as professional gamers," she said.

Stephanie Harvey is a Canadian and a five-time world champion in the popular team shooter CS:GO. She co-founded of Missciks, an advocacy organization for women in e-sports and geek culture.

While all players face some taunting, she said, the abuse directed at women is different in that it's often about looks and sexuality, rather than skill and gameplay.

"Women are targeted even if there is no reason for them to be targeted," Harvey said. "For a man, he needs to have done something (in game) to be targeted. For women, just me being there."

This industry has already broken barriers. It wasn't long ago that gamers were assumed to be white, male, heterosexual slackers who were socially inept and lived on a diet of Doritos and Mountain Dew. Now gaming's celebrities are more diverse. As an avid gamer myself, I have so much respect for people like the proud geeks of Missciks, who show that women, who have always had a part to play in the gaming community, will continue to fight for their rightful share of this industry's rewards.

We were there in the Dorito Dark Ages and we'll be there in the E-Sports Night in Canada future.

Samantha Emann samantha.emann@metronews.ca is a Metro copy editor and co-host of Scrub League, an e-sports podcast. Hear it at metronews.ca/podcasts

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Most of original cast will return for Stranger Things 2, Netflix announces

Just a man trying to pay the bills

Stan Lee says he has a bad memory — that's why he employed alliteration to his characters' names like **Peter Parker, Matt Murdoch** and **Bruce Banner**, he tells Metro. GETTY IMAGES

FAN EXPO

Artist Stan Lee reflects on his remarkable career, legacy

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Despite laying the foundation for the wildly popular Marvel Universe, Stan Lee says he is no superhero specialist.

"I'm not an expert of any sort," says the 93-year-old on the line from his Los Angeles office. "I really try to think of stories that I myself would like to read. I never try to write for a certain segment of the readership. I write for myself and I hope that I'm not that unusual. If I like it other people might also like it."

When it came to naming his characters he had an unusual habit of using alliteration —think Peter Parker, Bruce Banner, Matt Murdoch and Reed Richards — for a very practical reason. "It's because I have a bad memory," he says. "If I could remember one of the names like Spider-Man, if I could remember his first name was Peter then I knew his second name began with a P. That is really the only reason. I have a terrible memory for names and by making the first and second letter the same, if I thought of one name I had a clue as to what the other was."

Lee, who will appear at Fan Expo in Toronto this weekend in what is being billed as his last Canadian appearance, enjoys superstar status. But he is humble when asked about his legacy. "I didn't go out of my way to be enduring," he says.

In fact, when he began writing comic books over 70 years ago, "I was just hoping that somebody would buy them so I could keep my job and be able to pay the rent. In a million years I wouldn't have thought I'd be travelling around the country, talking to people like you about the comics.

"I just hope that maybe I brought some enjoyment to people, and they enjoyed reading the stories."

And they have. Bolstered by passionate fans — or True Believers as Lee calls them — support for Lee's work has endured in the form of movies, video games, books and on hundreds of comment boards where aficionados pit superhero against superhero in epic make-believe battles and argue over who would emerge victorious. Lee, however, claims he doesn't have a preferred character.

"People expect me to have a favourite," he says, "so I always say Spider-Man because that's what they expect. I'm really not good at favourites. I really love them all."

So out of Spider-Man, Hulk, Professor X or any of the other 300 or so characters he created, who does he most relate to?

"Of course I think of myself as being like Tony Stark because he's glamorous and intelligent and handsome," he laughs.

"But seriously I think there is a little bit of everybody in all these characters."

BOOK BRIEF

Justin Trudeau debuts in Marvel

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has officially entered the Marvel universe as a newly minted comic cover star. Trudeau appears on the variant cover of issue No. 5 of Marvel's Civil War II: Choosing Sides released Wednesday. Marvel offered a sneak peek at the cover earlier this summer, which features Trudeau sitting, smiling and relaxed, in a boxing ring wearing a Maple Leaf-emblazoned tank, black shorts and red boxing gloves. Standing behind him are Puck, Sasquatch and Aurora, who are members of Canadian superhero squad Alpha Flight, while Iron Man is seen in the left corner with his arms crossed. In the special issue, Trudeau offers advice to members of Alpha Flight — formally the Canadian peacekeeping force — during a visit to his Ottawa office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INTERVIEW

Atwood isn't worried about diversity in comic books

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

In Margaret Atwood's new graphic novel series Angel Catbird, even the hero's pants have an origin story.

Choosing from a selection of six bottoms, as illustrated by Johnnie Christmas, the author settled on a feathery brown pair with a red waistband: "Very simple; leathery; attractive," Atwood tells Metro.

In the comic, set for release Sept. 6., the title character's alter-ego Strig Feleedus receives the pants as a gift from his love interest and fellow part-cat-part-human, Cate Leone.

"It's the Superman problem: where does he get the outfit? Does he have it on all the time, under his suit? So we went with an origin story for the pants. All of these things have to be considered because inquiring minds will ask," Atwood says about the level of detail required when putting together the series, which will see Vol. 2 released in February.

Angel Catbird is a superhero with a conflicted identity — when he sees a chick threatened by a cat, he places it back in the nest rather than join in on the pounce.

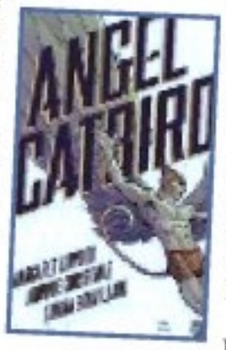
In a partnership with Nature Canada, the book is peppered with statistics on the dangers outdoor cats face, as well as how they contribute to bird deaths and the environmental impact of declining songbird populations.

Atwood has long been a fan of comics, especially ones with a message — even Walt Kelly's Pogo was political in its day, she says.

"There's a classic from the '90s called Blacksad, it's a cat and he's a noir detective...it's quite wonderful but it's about race politics in the States," she says.

Now, the genre is more diverse than ever, and niche audiences are helping give rise to "really complex, interesting, immersive stories," she says.

Strong female characters are being increasingly represented in the community, and they're given storylines that are more racy than those in the mainstream Marvel universe.



"There's one called Lady Killer, which is a '50s housewife who doubles as an assassin. It's pretty funny. Then there's one called Bitch Planet," says Atwood.

Atwood was impressed with this diversity when she attended San Diego Comic Con in July (she is also slated to attend Fan Expo Canada on Saturday.)

"What we're having in comics is what happened in television a while ago, and in books probably around the turn of the century or earlier," she says.

If there is a void, it's being filled very quickly, she adds. There are comic publishers devoted entirely to LGBTQAI themes.

"There's one called Mama Tits Saves the World, in which Mama Tits is a drag queen. But she doesn't have a back story yet so I'd like to hear the backstory of how Mama Tits became Mama Tits."

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The trickle-down effect of sexual assault cases

THE BEST KIND OF PEOPLE

High-profile affairs in the media inspire crime novel

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

If there is any glimmer of a bright side to be found in high-profile sexual assault stories such as Jian Ghomeshi's trial and the accusations against Bill Cosby and former Fox News chairman Roger Ailes, it's that discussion about rape culture and consent has opened up in an unprecedented way.

But one conversation that rarely gets touched in the media frenzy is the effect these crimes have on the families and loved ones of the accused. That sensitive subject is at the heart of award-winning Toronto author and poet Zoe Whittall's provocative new novel, The Best Kind of People.

Set in a sleepy Connecticut town, George Woodbury — local hero and perennial winner of the teacher of the year award — is charged with sexual misconduct and attempted rape of several students at his school, where his daughter Sadie also attends. As the story shifts perspectives, Whittall goes deep inside the heads of Sadie, her brother Andrew, and George's wife Joan, as they struggle to both defend their family's patriarch and their growing doubts over his innocence.

Toronto author and poet Zoe Whittall says she was "absolutely glued" to the coverage of the Ghomeshi and Steubenville High School assault trials. HANDOUT

The genesis of the novel came in 2009 when Whittall was listening to an interview on CBC Radio's The Current about a support group for women who decide to remain with partners convicted of sex crimes.

"I was completely occupied by the idea that anyone would want to stay with someone through such a thing," she says. Initially, Whittall wanted Joan to be fully aware of her husband's crimes, but as the story evolved, she decided to complicate the emotional plotline by having the character deal with questions over her husband's story and her mixed feelings about staying with him.

Whittall says that when she started writing the first draft it was tough for her to have empathy for Joan, but in the end it was Sadie's character that proved to be the biggest challenge.

"Talking to teenagers and parents of teenagers now, they're so much more sophisticated then I was at that age, and the idea of consent has changed so much since then," she says. "It was really interesting to write Sadie and accurately portray the confusion she would be feeling, and the level of knowledge and intelligence she would have."

Like so many others, Whittall was "absolutely glued" to the coverage of the Ghomeshi and Steubenville High School assault trials, but was careful not to dominate the narrative with her own opinions.

"There were a number of drafts where I was just blurting it all out. The heavy-handed 40-year-old feminist voice in my mind would come out and I'd have to pull back and say, 'That's me,'" Whittall says. "I tried to develop those characters so they'd be realistic and different from each other and not didactic in any way."

Ultimately, The Best Kind of People does not offer any easy solutions or lessons, and its twisted but ambiguous ending is a reminder that for the Woodbury family and others, the story doesn't die once the media loses interest.

"There's an interesting quality of 'life goes on,'" says Whittall. "It's very strange, and very human."

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Finally, a fun perfume ad

Margaret Qualley, the star of the new Kenzo World commercial, moves in spastic ways meant to defy pretty. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: Kenzo World commercial (YouTube)
THE MOMENT: The look into the camera

A beauty in a green gown (Margaret Qualley, The Leftovers) excuses herself from a dull dinner and steps into a grand hallway (it seems to be Manhattan's Lincoln Center). She wipes away a tear. Then her eyes lock onto the camera. Intoxicating music (Sam Spiegel) begins to play. And she's off.

For three minutes, Qualley kicks, punches, twitches, shakes and prances. She makes faces in mirrors, dominates a man on his cellphone, shoots lasers from her fingers. Finally she leaps outside, flies through a huge eye made of flowers, and pounds her chest like Tarzan.

If Kenzo's dictum to this spot's director, Spike Jonze (Her), and its choreographer, Ryan Heffington (Sia's Chandelier), was, "Expensive but rebellious," they got their money's worth. Interestingly, we never see the perfume. More interesting: There's no suggestion of romance or seduction.

Typically, perfume ads imply, "Wear this to win him." But a growing number of spots feature women who are fiercely solo: Charlize Theron striding Versailles in a J'Adore Dior ad by Jean-Jacques Annaud (Seven Years in Tibet). Keira Knightley running away from suitors in two Coco Mademoiselle spots from Joe Wright (Atonement). Pixies bowling with bottles of Chance.

Qualley, who's 21 (deliberately young for a spokesmodel), outrocks them all, with contorted expressions and spastic movements meant to defy prettiness. That look she gives the camera (Jonze used the same device in his 2001 video for Weapon of Choice, with Christopher Walken) stakes her claim: No male gaze here. She's wild, she's free, and if she wears World, it's for herself.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Rihanna's L.A. mansion can be rented out for $100,000 U.S. a month

MEET THE CONDO

Allure Condos enters second phase

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Hot on the heels of their first successful phase, Allure Condos in St. Norbert is now in its second phase. The neighbourhood has seen a condo boom thanks to its many amenities and easy access both to transportation and nearby parks. Expect designer touches that don't break the bank.

Housing amenities

Soundproofing is key when you're on a busy street, and Allure has made all the right decisions. The price includes granite or quartz countertops, your choice of upscale decorating selections, all appliances included and extra storage. Small pets are allowed.

Location and transit

It may be located just outside the perimeter highway, but don't let the location fool you. Steps away from Pembina Highway, a bus stop is right outside the door offering easy access to the University of Manitoba and a single bus ride to downtown. Like to walk or bike? Give nearby Duff Roblin or Kings parks a whirl.

In the neighbourhood

Restaurants, movie theatres, shopping and groceries are all with in a 10 minute drive or bus ride. The St. Norbert's Farmers' Market is a 10 minute walk away, open twice a week. Investors Group Field is close by at the University of Manitoba. St. Norbert is home to walking paths and old growth trees when you want to get away.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Allure Conominiums
Builder: Powell Property Group
Designer: Irwin Homes
Location: 3411 Pembina Highway
Building: Four-story apartment style condos, 73 units
Sizes: From 478 square feet to 1171 square feet
Pricing: $199,900 to $311,500
Model: One bed/one bath, two bed/two Bath
Status: Under Construction
Occupancy: Immediate to nine months
Phone: 204-977-2142
Website: AllureCondos.com

DIY

Chime in on end-of-summer sounds

Bring tranquil sounds to your outdoor space with a wind chime made from simple elements such as copper, brass and wood. In Feng Shui, wind chimes are said to bring good luck and fortune to a home.

Step 1: Gather the supplies
We used thin metal sheets purchased from an art supply store, but you could also use metal bells. You could also consider using small pieces of driftwood, sea glass or shells collected from a beach holiday — just drill a small hole through each to hang.

You'll need:
- Large brass ring
- Small brass rings
- Copper metal sheet
- Wooden beads
- Leather lace or strip
- Fishing wire or very thin metal wire
- Scissors
- Hammer
- Flat head nail
- Scrap wood
- Metal snips
- Safety gloves and glasses

Step 2: Loop it
Loop a strip of leather through the brass hoop. Add the wooden bead, knotting it at the top.

Step 3: Cut out metal shapes.
Using metal snips, cut out shapes from the copper metal sheets. Make sure you wear safety glasses and protect your hands from the sharp metal edges by wearing gloves.

Step 4: Pierce holes
Place the metal shape on a hard, level, wooden surface. Hold a flat head nail on the metal shape and hammer the nail through the metal. It will take some effort to pierce a hole through the metal. Watch your fingers!

Step 5: Put together.
Use fishing wire or very thin metal wire to string the metal shapes and wooden beads from the brass ring. These were strung fairly randomly onto the brass ring checking occasionally to make sure that the objects had contact with each other.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MATERIALS
There are lots of simple organic elements you can use to create your chime that still give it a clean, modern look

Make your own wind chime to bring soothing sounds to your backyard — or just go buy one of the ones we found.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metro SPORT

Following the lead of the World Anti-Doping Agency, the NHL has added meldonium to its list of banned substances

Wagons hitched to Wheeler

VIEW FROM THE 300S

Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson

The Winnipeg Jets had been without a captain since late February and the trade of Andrew Ladd to the Chicago Blackhawks. Coach Paul Maurice said at the time that the team would wait until the 2016-17 season to name the new captain of the club.

Wednesday the team ended the suspense, announcing Blake Wheeler will wear the 'C' as the new captain. Joining Wheeler with letters on their jerseys will be assistant captains Dustin Byfuglien and Mark Scheifele.

While many players on the team were certainly considered for the captaincy, Wheeler was always the clear choice for job. Over the last five seasons, he blossomed into one of the top players in the NHL, earned the respect of his teammates and grew into an accountable and outspoken leader when needed.

Through a very tough and disappointing season last year, he played like a captain every night and has been rewarded for it.

Scheifele, who recently signed an eight year extension with the Jets, was the one wild card in the captaincy decision. The 23-year-old exploded last year and is primed to be the Jets' No. 1 centre for years to come. He displays all the attributes of a player who will be an NHL captain one day. The Jets wisely chose to wait on that and will allow him to grow into that role over time.

The Jets rounded out their leadership core by slapping the final 'A' on Dustin Byfuglien's XXL sweater.

Byfuglien has always been the alpha dog in the Jets dressing room and he deserves the recognition as the team's highest-paid and often most-impactful player.

Having Buff eager to join Wheeler and Schiefele in accepting that role is a good sign for Jets unity.

With an influx of youth on the roster expected this season and in the near future, the captaincy and leadership core of the team is as crucial. Patrik Laine and the other young players in the organization will be given every opportunity to grow with the Jets following the lead of the most impactful and dedicated members of the team.

Wheeler earned this honour and responsibility through his play, dedication and leadership, both on and off the ice. There were other candidates for the captaincy, but Maurice and the Jets got it right by making Wheeler the second captain in Jets 2.0 history.

B-DAY 'C'-DAY

Blake Wheeler's 30th birthday presents included a "C" on his Winnipeg Jets jersey.

Wheeler said the timing of the personal and professional milestones was a coincidence.

"It was kind of ironic when they told me it was going to be today," Wheeler said. "I don't think they may have even realized that today was my birthday. Good start to the 30s."

Jets head coach Paul Maurice praised Wheeler as a leader on and off the ice.

"I'm not sure that I've ever coached a man that while staying on the ice or standing behind the bench, if I thought a young player was looking for direction, that I could so easily say, 'Just watch him,'" Maurice said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assistant captains Dustin Byfuglien and Mark Scheifele. GETTY IMAGES

Blake Wheeler speaks to members of the media on Wednesday at MTS Centre.
DAVID LIPNOWSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

PED probe trio cleared

NFL stars James Harrison, Clay Matthews and Julius Peppers can start the regular season without having the spectre of a league investigation over whether they used performance-enhancing drugs hanging over their heads.

The NFL cleared all three players on Wednesday, saying there was "no credible evidence" the players were guilty of any of the claims made in a documentary by Al-Jazeera America in January.

An NFL statement said "the investigation involved witness interviews, a review of relevant records and other materials, electronic research, and laboratory analysis and review."

The league threatened Harrison, Matthews, Peppers and free agent Mike Neal with indefinite suspensions if they did not meet with investigators.

All of them were mentioned in an Al-Jazeera television interview with Charlie Sly, who worked as an intern at an anti-aging clinic.

In the December report, Sly made claims of PED use by several athletes, including Harrison, Peyton Manning and the three others, but later recanted his claims.

NFLPA attorney Heather McPhee sent a letter to the NFL earlier this month of accusing it of trying to "bully and publicly shame" Harrison without offering evidence beyond a brief mention in the Al-Jazeera interview.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. OPEN

Raonic upset by unseeded American

Fifth-seed Milos Raonic crashed out of the U.S. Open in the second round Wednesday, losing 6-7 (4), 7-5, 7-5, 6-1 to unseeded Ryan Harrison.

66

While Raonic fired 18 aces, he made 66 unforced errors.

Raonic had problems holding serve, usually a strength for the six-foot-five Canadian. Raonic looked defeated after Harrison broke for the fifth time to win the third set.

The American broke Raonic seven times on 18 chances to improve to 2-1 in the career head-to-head series between the players.

Harrison will face Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus in the next round.

Earlier, Vancouver's Vasek Pospisil was eliminated after a 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-4 loss to 23rd-seed Kevin Anderson of South Africa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Subban disappointed over Team Canada snub

Nashville Predators defenceman P.K. Subban admits he's disappointed at not making the Canadian team for the World Cup of Hockey.

"I would love to do it again," Subban said.

"But there are some things I can control, there are some things I can't, and that's one I can't."

The World Cup opens in Subban's hometown of Toronto on Sept. 17.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Red Sox take 2 out of 3 against Rays

Hanley Ramirez hit a grand slam, and Aaron Hill later sliced an RBI single to break an eighth-inning tie on Wednesday in Boston to help the Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays 8-6.

Jackie Bradley Jr., who had three hits, and Xander Bogaerts each homered for the Red Sox. Dustin Pedroia had three more hits for Boston, which had lost five of its previous seven games after moving into a tie for first place in the AL East.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hanley Ramirez is showered with Powerade on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

I have my father's name and I have WORKED for EVERYTHING I have since DAY ONE.

James Harrison (@jharrison9292)

RECIPE Thai Chicken Curry

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Can

Give takeout a rest and whip up your own Thai-style curry, rich with coconut and peanut butter.

Ready in 35 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients
- 3 Tbsp vegetable or coconut oil
- 3 Tbsp curry paste
- Pinch ground cumin and ground coriander
- 1 1/2 cups (350 ml) coconut milk
- 1 1/2 lb (750g) chicken thighs or breasts, cut into chunks
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 2 Tbsp fish sauce
- 1 Tbsp lime leaves (optional)
- 2 Tbsp peanut butter
- Pinch salt
- Fresh coriander, chopped
- Lime wedges, to serve

Directions

1. Heat oil in large frying pan. Fry curry paste and spices for a couple of minutes.

2. Add 1/3 of the coconut milk and reduce the heat. Add the chicken and stir until the spices and milk combine.

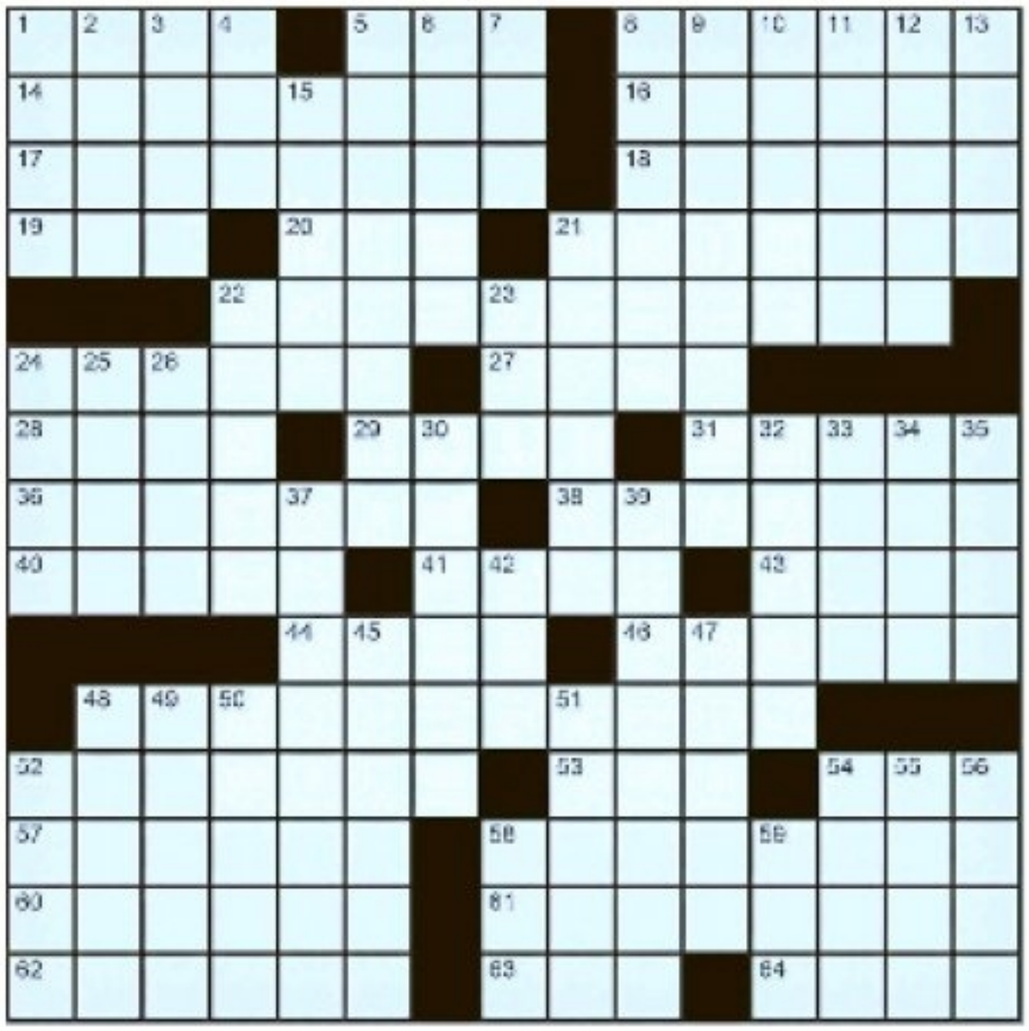
3. Add the remaining coconut milk then stir in the sugar, fish sauce and lime leaves. Bring the sauce to the boil, simmer for a few minutes then add the peanut butter and salt.

4. Simmer 20 minutes. Garnish with the chopped coriander and serve with the lime wedges.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Small amount that'll do ya: 2 wds.
5. Big hurricane, __. 5
8. Diving-into-water sight/sound!
14. Canadian sportscaster Brian
16. Prophet
17. Maxwell House is good to the what?: 2 wds.
18. Ancient inhabitant of Crete
19. _-Caps (Candy)
20. Payer's pledge
21. Anthony Hopkins/Emma Thompson movie, The _ of the Day (1993)
22. Canada's brand new AM show on CTV: 2 wds.
24. Director/producer J.J.
27. Emulate Tyra Banks
28. Shakespearean King
29. Real
31. Satisfies
36. Birthplace of Jesus' Bible follower Mary
38. Capture in a trap
40. Also, in Abitibi
41. Well-_-_ (Wealthy)
43. Corn lily
44. Winnebago owner, informally
46. Bathroom bowls
48. Mary-Louise Parker starred in the 2007 movie version of this 1993 Margaret Atwood novel, with The: 2 wds.
52. Describes, as a journalist
53. Chicken _ _ King
54. Stinker
57. Do the opposite of #49-Down: 2 wds.
58. Hidden trap activator: 2 wds.
60. _ populaire (Type of financial institution, such as in Quebec)
61. Movie milieus
62. EDM pianos
63. Weep
64. _ Squad (Best Buy's techie support providers)

DOWN
1. Cobbler's hand tools
2. Gorillas in the Mist (1988) true-life character Ms. Fossey
3. Moreover
4. Caf' sandwich
5. Quaint amusement park ride
6. Stevie Wonder's My Cherie _
7. Sugar amt.
8. Three's Company star Suzanne
9. State of being strait-laced
10. Hawaiian-style veranda
11. Q. "What's the Loonie?" A. "Why, it's _ _ of Canada!"
12. 'Phat' for Fantastic
13. Rhyming animals for Affleck and Stiller
15. 'Burn the midnight oil', for example
21. Securely settled in soil
22. Grass sods locations
23. US hwy. speed
24. City in Quebec
25. Boyfriend
26. Car washing needs
30. Provides food at wedding receptions
32. Fennel-like flavour
33. Cab
34. One of The Waltons
35. Navigated waters
37. Perfect a celebrity's image
39. Hereditary titles class
42. Sphere
45. Chevrolet sports cars, e.g.
47. Conform
48. Clear debt
49. Choose to partake: 2 wds.
50. Hike up
51. Less common
52. Birds of myth
54. Have a meal
55. Compel
56. Escritoire
58. QVC equivalent in Canada
59. Hairpiece

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Things might be dicey when dealing with bosses at work today. Knowing this ahead of time, don't make an issue of things. You cannot push the river.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Parents will have to be patient with kids today. (Sometimes it's all a bit much.) Likewise, romantic partners will have to be patient with each other. (Again, it's a bit much.)

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Someone in a position of authority might block your wishes today, especially regarding family issues. Don't make a big deal about anything. It's not worth it.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Avoid arguments with others, especially with siblings, relatives and neighbors. It will be hard for you to stick up for yourself, because others are intimidating today.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Financial squabbles are likely today. Don't go up against others, especially if they have authority or power. Keep a low profile.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today is somewhat restrictive and possibly even depressing. This is why you want to break free from your rut but feel you cannot. Easy does it. Wait till tomorrow!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It seems others just get in your way today, no matter what you do. Naturally, you feel frustrated. Nevertheless, be courteous.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Group plans or an interaction with a friend will be stymied today, possibly because of financial limitations. You can't win them all.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You cannot escape the duties and responsibilities that others demand of you today, even though you don't want to deliver. Just suck it up and face the facts.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Authority figures related to politics, religion or the government might be challenging. Toe the line.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have to pay your dues and carry your fair share when it comes to group activities. This might seem onerous; however, it is what it is.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Relations with parents and bosses are dicey today, because they will interfere with what you want to do. The fact is, you cannot get your way. However, this is just a temporary setback, because tomorrow is a fabulous day!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	3	8	1	6	4	9	5	
	7	9				1	3	
		1	2		8	4		
4				1				5
		5	7		3	8		
	9	6				2	1	
	1	7	5	9	2	3	4	

metro
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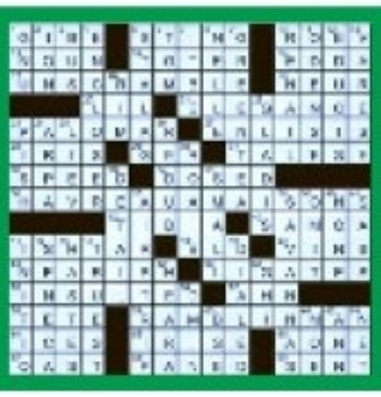
Join our online reader panel and help make your Metro even better. metronews.ca/panel

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.



2	4	7	6	8	1	5	9	3
9	8	5	7	4	3	6	2	1
6	1	3	9	5	2	4	7	8
1	5	6	2	9	7	3	8	4
8	9	4	1	3	5	2	6	7
3	7	2	8	6	4	1	5	9
7	2	9	3	1	6	8	4	5
4	6	1	5	7	8	9	3	2
5	3	8	4	2	9	7	1	6

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